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LB 265

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Members of the Legislature, I haven't spoken too much on this bill, but some of the arguments have not changed over the last four years. You've got the same players we had eight years ago, four years ago, and today. Everyone has their own opinion, and that's the way it should be. And they're vocal about their opinion and not afraid to tell the rest of us how they feel, and that's good. But, you know, is it better to have someone who should not have a concealed weapon than one that should? You know, and those that shouldn't be able to carry a firearm are the ones that are opposing this bill at the highest degree. They don't want any competition. They don't want to put themselves in jeopardy. That's just, you know, that's just the way it is. So that you're not going to see a big raise in people being shot. For heavens sake, that's just not...that just won't happen. And in some of these other states that have enacted this, the percentage of those people who are applying for a permit to carry is quite low. It really is. You can see, and I have facts and figures to show you that Nebraska registered voters...of the Nebraska registered voters, 67 percent of them believe that law-abiding citizens who pass criminal background checks and complete a firearms safety course should have the right to protect themselves and their families by carrying a concealed weapon. You know really what...you can strap that weapon along on your side right now and go walking down the street and nobody is going to bother you. So what in the world is the difference if you put your coat around that? If you do that, you're breaking the law now because it is concealed. Licenses in other states, it's been a very small percentage of those populations in those states, which are, I think, around forty-some, forty-one or two states that have concealed carry, and the percentage has been comparatively small, and it kind of runs that way throughout the whole United States. The percentages don't change very much. In Oklahoma, it was .6 percent of the people who wanted to register to carry a firearm. In Louisiana, it was .8 percent. In Kentucky, .8 percent, and in Texas, .6 percent of the people who went and had the background checks and applied for a permit to carry a concealed weapon.